



City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

A Coast Guard City

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: Assembly Members Knox and Christianson

Date: June 16, 2021

Subject: Approve Ordinance 2021-18

Background

The utility rates for liveaboard vessels (water, sewage, garbage and electrical) were established in the 1996' era. Liveaboard rates are very common throughout harbors and marinas.

At the February 10, 2021 Port and Harbors meeting Commission members discussed a change to harbor garbage rates to address liveaboard garbage fees in relation to other fees assessed within the City and Borough.

Commission members reviewed monthly garbage rates in Sitka. Currently, harbor liveaboards were required to pay a \$56.29 per month garbage fee, equal to the price of a shared 300 gallon bin such as is used for apartment complexes, for reference a 96 gallon waste bin at one's residence is currently \$65.01. Port and Harbor Commission Member Mike Nurco felt that most liveaboard vessels had less people residing on them, and generate less trash, vs a home in Sitka yet were required to pay the same garbage fee. Upland residents also have the option to pay a lower monthly garbage fee (\$37.03) for a smaller sized waste bin.

A unanimous vote to change the rate to the same rate as the small bin residential charge was recorded. A motion was also made that all revenue generated from collection of liveaboard garbage fees goes to the harbor fund as collection fees for harbor pick up come from the harbor budget and the harbor fund.

Analysis

The 14 live aboard utility accounts are paying \$56.29 per month for refuse. The Port and Harbor Commission believes this rate is extreme. The commission recommends reducing the rate to \$38.70 per month. This is equivalent to a residential 48-gallon waste bin, as opposed to a shared 300-gallon tub, at \$58.82 per month (FY22). Of note, there are likely a significant number of vessels that should be in liveaboard status,

should enforcement be increased, the number of live aboard accounts may increase significantly.

Fiscal Note

It is estimated that passing this ordinance will result in a small reduction in fees collected from the liveaboard garbage fees collected. The proposed rate will generate approximately \$6,501.60 per year. This is a reduction of \$4,380.16 or 34% annually to the Solid Waste fund. With the addition of non compliant liveaboards the fiscal impact will be less. These projections will fluctuate over the course of time.

Recommendation

Approve Ordinance 2021-18.